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Ban on the assignment of lands.

* 109 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government imposed at any time a ban on the assignment of lands;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the ban still exists;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in spite of the ban, assignments are being made; and

(*d*) whether in view of the immediate need for improving food production the Government have formulated or intend to formulate a scheme by which land is to be made available for cultivation on liberal terms?

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao) :—" (*a*) Yes, in March 1943.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) The ban has been relaxed only in certain specific classes of cases under the orders of the Government, e.g., assignment of small bits of land which are not useful to anybody except to the adjacent landowners to round off their holdings; Kamaki lands in South Kanara; escheated lands. Besides, in a very few exceptional cases permanent assignments of land have been made.

" (*d*) The Government have thrown open all waste lands for temporary cultivation under the Grow More Food Scheme. The cultivation is free of assessment and this exemption from assessment has been continued up to the end of fasli 1357 (30th June 1948). In certain areas, concessional rates of water-cess have also been sanctioned. Other concessions such as grant of loans on liberal terms, subsidies for sinking new wells and tanks and repairing old wells and tanks, subsidized distribution of seeds and manures are also made to enable ryots to increase production of foodcrops. No further orders are considered necessary at present."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the question of assigning for ever lands in favour of persons who have raised crops on them for a particular period in connexion with the Grow More Food Campaign has been considered by Government? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I do not think any such consideration has been made."

Sri K. NATARAJAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether in the case of lands which had been brought under cultivation in furtherance of the Grow More Food Campaign under the orders of Government under the Defence of India Rules, those occupying them will be given permanent rights of occupancy without any disturbance? "

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" When the ban is removed, the Government will consider the question."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will it not prove a better incentive to them to cultivate these lands and to put all their labour, energy and capital, if they are sure that if they continue to cultivate them continuously for a particular period, they would become the ultimate owners of the lands?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The ban over the alienation of lands was connected with the question of reservation of some lands for ex-servicemen; now that question is practically over and the question will be considered."

Language test for Deputy Collectors.

* 110 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether in view of the impending partition of the Province into Andhra and Tamil Provinces it is necessary to continue the Deputy Collectors' Language Test?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao) :—" It is necessary to continue the language test for Deputy Collectors until the partition of the Province becomes an accomplished fact."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Import of rice and wheat into this Province for 1945–47.

8 Q.—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of imports of rice and wheat into the Province from other Provinces or States of India in the years 1945–46 and 1946–47;

(b) the names of such Provinces or States—the quantity from each Province and the price paid per bag of rice of 246 lb. and per unit of wheat imported;

(c) the costs of transportation per bag of rice or per unit of wheat;

(d) the imports of rice from foreign countries in the years 1945–46 and 1946–47—the names of the said countries—the quantities imported therefrom; and

(e) the price or prices paid per each bag of 246 lb. rice to the several foreign countries from which rice was imported and the costs of import and transportation per bag of 246 lb. of rice and per unit of wheat?

A.—(a) to (e) Statements [a] showing the information required are laid on the table of the House.

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 567-568 infra.